
By: **Delegates Owings, Conroy, Krysiak, McKee, F. Turner, and Weldon**
Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2004
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Campaign Finance Reports - Paper Documentation**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the mediums that a campaign finance entity may use to
4 submit a campaign finance report to include a paper document; requiring the
5 State Board of Elections to approve the format of a paper document used to file
6 a campaign finance report; requiring a campaign finance report to be submitted
7 by electronic storage medium if a campaign finance entity has received a certain
8 amount of campaign contributions during a certain period of time; requiring the
9 State Board of Elections to develop certain specifications; making certain
10 clarifying changes; and generally relating to the mediums used to submit
11 campaign finance reports.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article - Election Law
14 Section 13-324
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2003 Volume and 2003 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article - Election Law**

20 13-324.

21 (a) (1) (I) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection,
22 campaign finance reports required to be filed with the State Board shall be submitted
23 using [an electronic storage medium, and in a format, that the State Board approves]
24 EITHER:

25 1. AN ELECTRONIC STORAGE MEDIUM; OR

26 2. A PAPER DOCUMENT.

27 (II) THE MEDIUM FOR COMPLETING A CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT
28 SHALL BE IN A FORMAT THAT THE STATE BOARD APPROVES.

1 (2) [The State Board may exempt a campaign finance entity with de
2 minimis financial activity from the requirement to submit campaign finance reports
3 using an electronic medium] A CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT SHALL BE SUBMITTED
4 USING ONLY AN ELECTRONIC STORAGE MEDIUM FOR A REPORTING PERIOD WHEN
5 THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE ENTITY HAS RECEIVED MORE THAN \$50,000 IN CAMPAIGN
6 CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THAT REPORTING PERIOD.

7 (b) On request the State Board shall supply to a person who is required OR
8 CHOOSES to file campaign finance reports using an electronic medium the computer
9 software and the disks or other media on which the required information is to be
10 entered.

11 (c) Campaign finance reports received by the State Board [in an electronic
12 storage format] shall be maintained in accordance with § 13-341 of this subtitle.

13 (d) (1) The State Board shall make the campaign finance reports that are
14 maintained [in an electronic storage format] under subsection (c) of this section
15 widely and easily accessible to the public[:

16 (1) using any existing public or private systems for data dissemination;

17 (2)] on terms that the State Board determines are consistent with the
18 purposes and requirements of this article[; and

19 (3) by making any computer disk submitted by a person available for
20 duplication].

21 (2) CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS THAT ARE MAINTAINED UNDER
22 PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION IN AN ELECTRONIC STORAGE FORMAT SHALL
23 BE MADE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC:

24 (I) USING ANY EXISTING PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SYSTEMS FOR DATA
25 DISSEMINATION; AND

26 (II) BY MAKING ANY COMPUTER DISK SUBMITTED BY A PERSON
27 AVAILABLE FOR DUPLICATION.

28 (e) The State Board may refuse to accept or process a campaign finance report
29 that is not submitted in accordance with the requirements of this section.

30 (f) The State Board shall:

31 (1) develop specifications for submitting campaign finance reports using
32 EITHER an electronic medium OR A PAPER DOCUMENT; and

33 (2) adopt regulations to implement this section.

34 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
35 October 1, 2004.